

UXBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Present: Chair Gretchen Duffield, Russ Holden, Al Jones, Harold Klei, David Lewcon, Peter Lewis and Tracy Tibedo.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – Ms. DiPrete introduced the project, and introduced Wayne Beitler, of The Trustees of Reservations, which has provided a grant to fund our current Update project. Consultant Gino Carlucci was present to discuss the 2004 draft goals, and action/implementation plan, and lead a public input discussion regarding that information and opportunities for the future. There was extensive discussion regarding the importance of actively managing properties, in order to avoid mis-management, or to avoid conditions that result in the inability to use the property as intended.

Following input, Mr. Carlucci indicated a draft of the revised OSR Plan update would be available in approximately 2 months.

VIOLATION Notice. Trice, 10 Brookside Drive. The Chairwoman issued a Cease and Desist order on April 1, instructing the property owner to stop mechanically pumping a vernal pool adjacent to Hazel Street into a wetland/mapped habitat of rare/endangered species behind the property (corner of Brookside/Hazel). Attorney Rob Finnegan represented the applicant and provided numerous documents showing the area in question is not a vernal pool. Ms. Duffield acknowledged that it is not a certified vernal pool subject to the Commission's jurisdiction, and noted it appears to receive road runoff and drainage. She expressed concern that, although it is not a vernal pool, the water being pumped out of it may contain highway contaminants.

MOTION by Mr. Tibedo to continue this item to the next meeting to allow the Commissioners the opportunity to view the site. Seconded by Mr. Holden. Mr. Finnegan asked that as the property owners attorney, advance notice of any site visits be provided directly to him. The motion carried unanimously.

OOC DEP # 312-884. MOTION by Mr. Jones to issue the OOC as drafted. Seconded by Mr. Tibedo, the motion carried unanimously.

Pout Pond. There was general discussion about the property. The Land Use Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on April 28. Town funds cannot be used to purchase a trash sticker for a privately owned vehicle.

Ms. DiPrete reviewed several miscellaneous items. She distributed a handout regarding the Open Meetings Law. Summarizing, she stated that the business of the public must be conducted in the view of the public.

Ms. DiPrete also reviewed upcoming guests: On May 5, Peter Coffin will be present to speak to the importance of stormwater management oversight. On May 19, Michelle Walsh will be present, from the Blackstone River Watershed Association.

Adjournment. Motion by Mr. Jones to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Klei, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Duffield, Chair